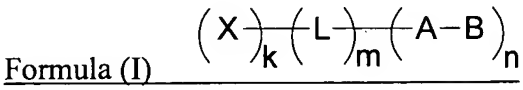
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A photothermographic material comprising a non-photosensitive silver salt of an organic acid, a photosensitive silver halide, a reducing agent for silver ions and a binder on one surface of a support, which comprises

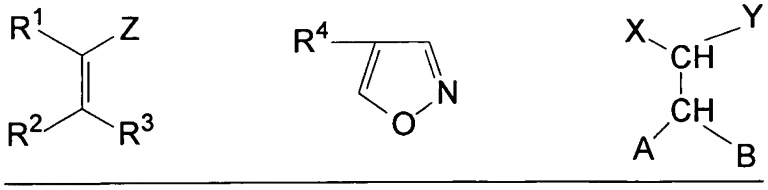
at least one compound represented by the following formula (I)

Formula (I) 

wherein, in the above formula, X represents a silver halide adsorption group or light absorption group which contains at least one atom of N, S, P, Se or Te, L represents a (k + n)-valent bridging group containing at least one atom of C, N, S or O, A represents an electron-donating group, B represents a leaving group or a hydrogen atom, A-B is dissociated or deprotonated after oxidation to generate a radical A', k represents 0-3, m represents 0 or 1, and n represents 1 or 2, provided that when k = 0 and n = 1, m = 0; and

at least one second compound represented by the following formula (1), (2) or (3)

Formula (1) Formula (2) Formula (3)



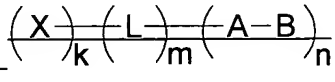
wherein:

in the formula (1), R^1, R^2 and R^3 each independently represents a hydrogen atom or a substituent, Z represents an electron withdrawing group, and R^1 and Z, R^2 and R^3, R^1 and R^2, or R^3 and Z may be combined with each other to form a ring structure,

in the formula (2), R^4 represents a substituent, and

in the formula (3), X and Y each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a substituent, A and B each independently represents an alkoxy group, an alkylthio group, an alkylamino group, an aryloxy group, an arylthio group, an anilino group, a heterocyclyloxy group, a heterocyclylthio group or a heterocyclylamino group, and X and Y or A and B may be combined with each other to form a ring structure,

said second compound satisfying at least one of characteristics (i) to (iii):

~~Formula (I)~~ 

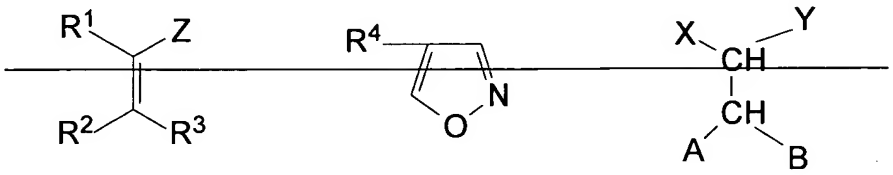
~~wherein, in the above formula, X represents a silver halide adsorption group or light absorption group which contains at least one atom of N, S, P, Se or Te, L represents a (k + n)-valent bridging group containing at least one atom of C, N, S or O, A represents an electron-donating group, B represents a leaving group or a hydrogen atom, A-B is dissociated or deprotonated after oxidation to generate a radical A', k represents 0-3, m represents 0 or 1, and n represents 1 or 2, provided that when k = 0 and n = 1, m = 0;~~

(i) compounds producing imagewise a chemical species that can form development initiation points on and in the vicinity of the non-photosensitive silver salt of an organic acid,

(ii) compounds that provide increase of developed silver grain density to a level of 200-5000% when added in an amount of 0.01 mol/mol of silver, and

(iii) compounds that provide increase of covering power to a level of 120-1000% when added in an amount of 0.01 mol/mol of ~~silver,~~ silver.

~~Formula (1)~~ ~~Formula (2)~~ ~~Formula (3)~~



~~wherein:~~

~~in the formula (1), R^1, R^2 and R^3 each independently represents a hydrogen atom or a substituent, Z represents an electron withdrawing group, and R^1 and Z, R^2 and R^3, R^1 and R^2, or R^3 and Z may be combined with each other to form a ring structure,~~

~~in the formula (2), R^4 represents a substituent, and~~

~~in the formula (3), X and Y each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a substituent, A and B each independently represents an alkoxy group, an alkylthio group, an alkylamino group, an aryloxy group, an arylthio group, an anilino group, a heterocyclyloxy group, a heterocyclylthio group or a heterocyclylamino group, and X and Y or A and B may be combined with each other to form a ring structure.~~

2. (Previously Presented) A photothermographic material according to Claim 1, which comprises at least one second compound satisfying characteristic (i).

3. (Previously Presented) A photothermographic material according to Claim 1, which comprises at least one second compound satisfying characteristic (ii).

4. (Previously Presented) A photothermographic material according to Claim 3, wherein said second compound satisfying characteristic (ii) provides increase of developed silver grain density to a level of 500-3000% when it is added in an amount of 0.01 mol/mol of silver.

5. (Previously Presented) A photothermographic material according to Claim 1, which comprises at least one second compound satisfying characteristic (iii).

6. (Previously Presented) A photothermographic material according to Claim 5, wherein said second compound satisfying characteristic (iii) provides increase of covering power to a level of 150-500% when it is added in an amount of 0.01 mol/mol of silver.

7. (Cancelled).

8. (Original) A photothermographic material according to Claim 1, which comprises the compound represented by the formula (I) in an image-forming layer containing the photosensitive silver halide.

9. (Original) A photothermographic material according to Claim 1, which comprises the compound represented by the formula (I) in an amount of 1×10^{-9} to 5×10^{-2} mol per mole of silver halide.

10. (Original) A photothermographic material according to Claim 1, which comprises the compound represented by the formula (I) in an amount of 1×10^{-8} to 2×10^{-3} mol per mole of silver halide.

11. (Previously Presented) A photothermographic material according to Claim 1, which comprises said at least one second compound in an image forming layer comprising said photosensitive silver halide or a layer adjacent thereto.

12. (Previously Presented) A photothermographic material according to Claim 1, which comprises said at least one second compound in an amount of 1×10^{-6} to 1 mol per mole of silver halide.

13. (Previously Presented) A photothermographic material according to Claim 1, which comprises said at least one second compound in an amount of 1×10^{-5} to 5×10^{-1} mol per mole of silver halide.

14. (Previously Presented) A photothermographic material according to Claim 1, which comprises said at least one second compound in an amount of 2×10^{-5} to 2×10^{-1} mol per mole of silver halide.

15. (Previously Presented) A photographic material according to claim 1, which comprises at least one second compound satisfying at least characteristics (ii) and (iii).